

Auburn News

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Friday, June 5, 2020

Newsstand: 75 cents

Auburn's Shane Brien completes training as correctional officer

WEST BOYLSTON — With his newest class of 11 recruits, including Shane Brien of Auburn, ready to graduate after completing numerous interviews, mental health screenings, physical fitness metrics and a rigorous twelve-week academy at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his department were ready for their latest recruits to take their official oath and begin active duty on the line at their correctional facility.

A normal rite of passage for the 52 previous Basic Recruit Training Academies has been a large graduation ceremony full of Sheriff's Department traditions with friends and family. Many of the ceremonies are held at Anna Maria College in Paxton. This year's WCSO Basic Recruit Training Academy #53, like graduation ceremonies around the country in the era of

Coronavirus, was very different.

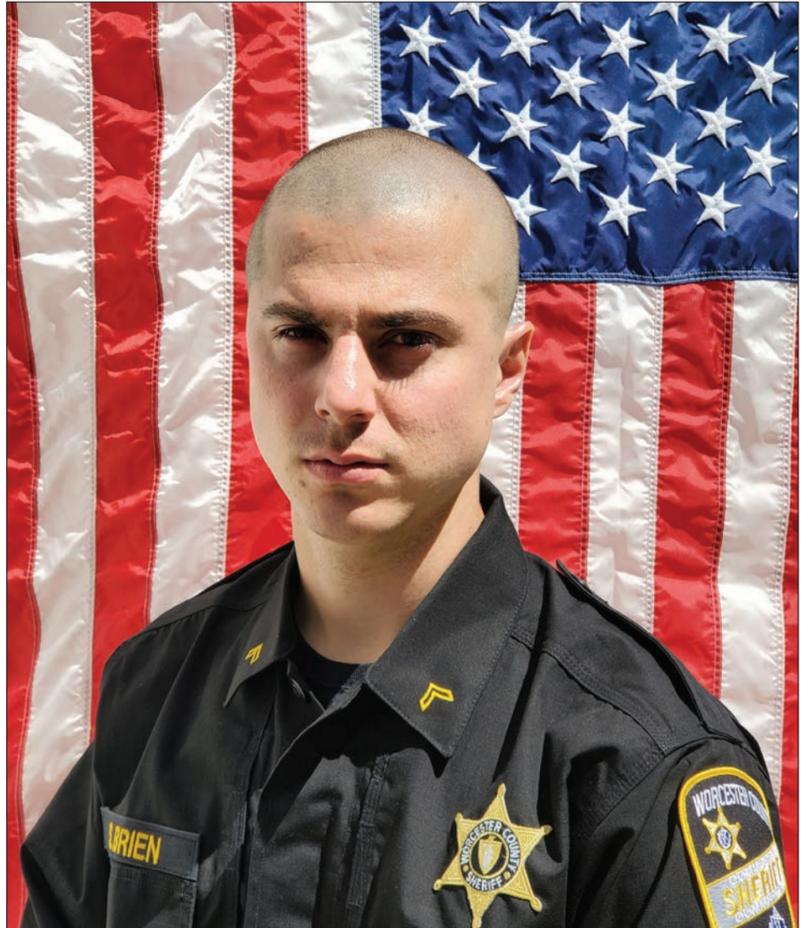
A private, socially distanced and masked ceremony provided by Sheriff Evangelidis was held on the grounds of the Sheriff's Department. In all, eleven recruits and a small group of the Training Staff were in attendance. During the very brief ceremony, a masked Sheriff Evangelidis thanked the recruits for "stepping up to assist the Department in our critical mission of public safety, especially during this challenging time that we all find ourselves in," while sharing he "could not be more proud of this class."

Officer Shane Brien of Auburn was one of the graduating recruits. As a member of the United States Airforce Reserve, Officer Brien was one of four graduates with prior military service

During the ceremony,

the recruits avoided the traditional cadence style entrance, presenting of the colors and customary pinning. Instead, eleven recruits remained stoic, masked and socially distanced in their seats until it was time to stand to take their official oath as Correctional Officers. All were grateful to have a ceremony, which was streamed on Facebook Live for their families to see.

"In this uncertain time, we felt it was important to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of our newest correctional officers. I know the recruits and their families appreciated the small, safe and private ceremony we provided," Evangelidis continued. "Now, they will begin the important work done every day at the Sheriff's Department to help protect public safety and make Worcester County a safer place."



Shane Brien

Elm Hill Water District to hold Annual Meeting

AUBURN — The Elm Hill Water District will hold its Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. at the District office, located at 55 Jerome Ave. All members of the district are invited to attend.

Tree House gets approval for outdoor improvements

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Board of Selectmen has given its approval for Tree House Brewing Company to proceed with upgrades to facilitate an enhanced outdoor experience at the popular venue on Sturbridge Road.

The unanimous approval from the town's highest elected board allows the brewery to proceed with planned exterior upgrades to the property including 9,000 square feet of green space and an additional 54,000 square feet of outdoor seating space. The project had received approval from numerous other boards and commissions in town prior to the Board of Selectmen hearing. Kimberly Golinski, a representative of Tree House Brewing Company, met with selectmen during a livestreamed meeting at the end of May and detailed the nature of the upgrades as part of a multi-step initiative to enhance the customer experience.



TREE HOUSE
BREWING CO.

"We've been doing a lot of stuff up there with the expansion of our warehouse. We did a lot of work with our driveway and we have a lot more grass area now. We're just trying to create a more comfortable environment because we do see a lot of people. We're not trying to increase the number of people, we're just trying to make it so that those who are already on the premises are more comfortable," Golinski said.

While the planned upgrades pre-date the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, selectmen credited Tree House Brewing Company for being ahead of the curve in prioritizing outdoor seating. Selectman John McGrath said he feels it will be a good move for Tree House.

"A lot more business

in the cities are going to have to do this to extend their premises so they can have outdoor seating," McGrath said. "I think this is a good step for them."

Golinski responded saying that while the plans are not a direct response to the pandemic it will help with their plans to reopen as businesses begin to welcome guests back on their properties. However, the overall idea is to give customers a good experience whether in the current business climate or in a more "normal" business atmosphere.

"We have a lot of people (on weekends). It's a little bit overwhelming. It's nice to see those people but we also want people to be comfortable and not to feel so claustrophobic. We're hoping this is going to create a more leisurely type of experience," Golinski said.

Selectmen reiterated past comments calling Tree House Brewing Company "great partners" for the community and crediting them with being proactive when working with police to control traffic and adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic. The green space portion of the project approved during the meeting is expected to be completed by July.

Xtra Mart helps keep frontline workers fed



Courtesy

Employees from the North Oxford Xtra Mart are pictured delivering free lunch to UMass Medical Center's biotech lab, which is providing research needed to fight COVID-19.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — With his wife working at UMass Medical School, Patrick Joslin has had a chance to see the Covid-19 pandemic through two sets of eyes. So when his company, Xtra Mart, wanted to do something to help front-line workers, he knew where to go.

That was seven weeks ago, and his staff has since delivered 30 lunches weekly to several UMass sites in Worcester, Barre and Uxbridge. Joslin said it's part of the Global Cares program of his parent company, Global Partners, which also owns Honey Farms and other brands.

"Many of them have been giving back in their own ways," Joslin said. "I'm just a small part of it."

"We were really thrilled at their generosity," said

UMass's Community Donations Manager, Diana Avery. "It really brightened people's day."

Joslin agreed, saying it was also a good break for him.

"It's really nice to just sit there and laugh with them, and forget everything going on in the world right now," he said. Avery noted companies of all kinds and individuals (often relatives of patients) have been contributing "lots of meals," but also jewelry, luggage, personal care items and other things to UMass staff in various locations. Beyond that, she said she's aware of donations of medical supplies, person protective equipment and the like, but doesn't coordinate them.

"The outpouring of support from the community of Worcester and beyond has been amazing," she said.

"Our community is our backbone. That's what keeps us afloat. That's what keeps us in business. And we're a huge part of our community," said John Rarus, Global Partners' territory manager. "The weekly donations that we're making as a company are definitely going a long way and they're definitely appreciated within the community."

Joslin said the pandemic has affected his North Oxford store "a great deal," particularly on the deli side. Besides seeing the "customer base slow down dramatically," five of his older staff members decided to stay home due to the risk of illness, but he hasn't laid anyone off.

One of those who departed temporarily was his deli manager, but he praised Melissa Mercier

Turn To XTRAMART page A10



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Bay Path students inducted into National Technical Honor Society



Courtesy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's NTHS Chapter 3994 held its first-ever touchless, self-induction ceremony, May 23 at Douglas Orchard and Farm amidst the beautiful apple blossoms. Among the inductees was Aja Johnson, pictured here with her family.

DOUGLAS — The Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy of Charlton's National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) would have held its induction ceremony at Homecoming on Nurses' Week, but due to school closure and social-distancing orders, the first-ever, touchless, NTHS Induction was held at Douglas Orchard and Farm.

The NTHS is a prestigious club. NTHS members are outstanding in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. For nursing students, NTHS membership also means excellence in clinical practice. Inductees must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Inductees were also recommended by the Practical Nursing faculty and were scored on volunteer/community service, leadership, and character.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's NTHS Chapter 3994 held its first-ever touchless, self-induction ceremony, May 23 at Douglas Orchard

and Farm amidst the beautiful apple blossoms. Traditionally hosted at the Bay Path Campus in Charlton by the NTHS Advisor and Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, she coordinated the outdoor event with Student Representative and NTHS Inductee, Aja Johnson of Springfield, and Aaron Socrat, Property Manager of Douglas Farm and Orchard. The NTHS induction and pinning ceremony was attended by the inductees and their families and observant of CDC guidelines. Faculty and staff in attendance included Professor Cheryl Cahill of Oxford, Professor Lindsayy Guertin, and Professor Jason Guertin, both of Spencer. The NTHS induction and pinning ceremony was streamed on Facebook live for community members, on the Academy's page at BayPathPracticalNursing2015.

Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, said "The Academy has been physically closed since March 13, we had successfully transitioned to remote learning. But we have only seen each other or our students virtually. The stars aligned and we were determined to make this even happen. It helped that Superintendent, John Lafleche had given us guidance and that Douglas Farm and Orchard was open and accommodating."

Further, Bolandrina stated "Nursing education is challenging, the Bay Path Practical Nursing curriculum is accelerated and rigorous. To make it through nursing school, qualify for the honor

society, amidst the pandemic, these are outstanding accomplishments that are inspiring and must be recognized."

Ten practical nursing students were recognized during the ceremony. The inductees achieved high honors, demonstrated leadership and exceptional skill development, and had a positive impact on the community. The inductees are Rachel Carlisle of Oxford, Michelle Elicierof Worcester, Cynthia Harris of Ludlow, Aja Johnson of Springfield, JoAnn Milford of Woodstock, Conn., Genshire Maura of Webster, Barbara Owusu of Worcester, Yaitzarie Rodriguez of Millbury, Fjolla Shehu of Worcester, and Chelsea Still of Plainfield, Conn.

Bolandrina gratefully acknowledges the NTHS inductee's families for their presence and support, Douglas Orchard and Farm for their wonderful physical accommodations, and volunteers Lilly Bolandrina (still photos) and Max Bolandrina (video live stream).

It is the Mission of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School to facilitate current, integrated, and rigorous academic and technical vocational programs that prepare students for the ever-changing world of employment and post-secondary education; to provide a school culture that meets the diverse needs of our student body for safety and mental wellness; and to foster student confidence, professionalism, and life-long learning skills that will enable them to become contributing members of our communities.

Auburn News

ACCURACY WATCH

The Auburn News is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.

Marianapolis celebrates honor society inductions

THOMPSON, Conn. — On Wednesday, May 27, Marianapolis held virtual induction ceremonies for the National Chinese Honor Society and the National Honor Society. Congratulations to the new and renewing members of each society.

National Chinese Honor Society:

Renewing Members:
Michael Acquaaah-Harrison, Charlton, MA
Christopher Sullivan, Charlton, MA

New Members:
Kylie Miller, Webster, MA
Kyle Woodruff, Southbridge, MA

National Honor Society

Renewing Members:
Class of 2020:
Michael Acquaaah-Harrison, Charlton, MA
Lily Alessandro, Pomfret Center, CT
Ryan Barnwell, Danielson, CT
Marielle Caparso, Worcester, MA
Julia Crosby, Whitinsville, MA
Zachary Hall, Plainfield, CT
Katelyn Jacoboski, Willington, CT
Nhi Nguyen, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Yasmeen Osborne, Brooklyn, CT
Sara Powers, Grafton, MA
Brendan Phaneuf, Danielson, CT
Elizabeth Schoemer, Oxford, MA
Alex Stawiecki, Thompson, CT
Mary Wall, Northborough, MA

Class of 2021:
Abigail Boria, Charlton, MA
Alexandra Delano, Charlton, MA
Sofia Hargrave, Charlton, MA
Maura Hoban, Millbury, MA
Emma McQuiston, Webster, MA

New Members:
Class of 2020:
Panachai Chauychoo, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Pannawat Chauychoo, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Anh Dao, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Madeline Hollett, Charlton, MA
Julia Kilroy, Upton, MA
Andie Lee, Charlton, MA
Ryan Martin, Douglas, MA
Lucas Yash, Webster, MA

Class of 2021:
Fiona Doiron, Charlton, MA
Chiara Faiola, Auburn, MA
Brianna Rett, Uxbridge, MA
John Vigliotti, Worcester, MA
Yunpeng Wang, Shenzhen, China
Kyle Woodruff, Southbridge, MA
Wenyang Yuan, Beijing, China

Class of 2022:
Olivia Acquaaah-Harrison, Charlton, MA
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Declan O'Connor, West Boylston, MA
Grace Rhoads, Stafford Springs, CT
Maya Summiel, Dayville, CT
Christian Terwilliger, Lebanon, CT

Becker College recognizes graduates

LEICESTER — Becker College is pleased to announce the graduation of more than 430 students at a virtual commencement celebration, including the following local residents:

Sarah Obas, of Auburn, has graduated with an Associate of Science in Nursing.

Caroline Rosenberg, of Auburn, has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Erin Sherman, of Auburn, has graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood and Youth Education.

To see Becker College's Commencement page, including details on graduates, awards and a video message from President Crimmin, go to <https://www.becker.edu/student-life/commencement-2020/>

Founded in 1784, Becker College is an undergraduate and graduate, career-focused private college, providing a supportive and inclusive learning community that prepares graduates for their first to last careers. Nearly 1,700 students from the United States and around the world attend Becker College, which has campuses both in Worcester and Leicester, Massachusetts. With nationally recognized programs in nursing, game design and animal studies, Becker has been consistently ranked as a "Best College" for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review.

Sheriff warns of phone scam

REGION — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is warning residents about a recent phone scam in which the caller tells victims they have an arrest warrant issued in their name. In order to avoid going to jail, the caller tells the individual they need to pay a fine.

Unlike previous scams which involved claims of missed jury duty, the current scam does not say what the «warrant» is issued for. The scam artist fraudulently uses the Sheriff's Office name and/ or a phony telephone number. Many calls have originated from the phone number, (508) 635-0166. This line has a misleading recording designed to sound like the Sheriff's Office. This number is not associated with the Worcester County Sheriff's Department and is a scam.

In recent days, the sheriff's office has received numerous reports of this type of phone scam. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office encourages people to be aware of calls like this and to never give personal or financial information over the phone to anyone whom you didn't call yourself.

"Our department does not contact residents and demand payment or ask for credit card information. Today's scam artists are always trying to stay ahead of the curve, residents need to beware of any unsolicited calls that ask for cash, money card payments, their personal or credit card information," said the Sheriff. "These callers can sound convincing, will be aggressive and try to intimidate you, even threaten you with jail time. We encourage anyone who gets a suspicious call to just hang up or call authorities first before giving out any type of personal information or money."

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BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — To Amy Grniet, the shutdown of the school system is not at all a vacation. She's a nurse, and she's been recruited to do contact tracing for Covid-19 cases, alongside colleague Kathleen Schumer.

“We're not on the front lines anymore, but there's so much important tracing work to be done,” Grniet told the selectmen last week. “... Kathy and I basically eat, drink, breathe and sleep Covid.”

She's referring to the state's process for identifying potential coronavirus cases, hopefully before they can infect others. It starts when someone is actually proven to be infected by testing or symptoms. At that point, tracers like Grniet and Schumer have them provide a list of people they've been in contact with recently and call those people. Without specifically identifying the first person, tracers warn that they have been exposed and see if they have symptoms yet, explain how to quarantine, and related issues.

“At first, we thought this was going to be difficult,” Grniet

said. “... We found it quite the opposite,” with a lot of people very willing to talk, asking “a lot of questions.” She noted it's probably easier because “we can talk to people as members of the community.”

For years, contact tracing has been seen as a standard public health approach to epidemic illnesses. Back in 2006, PLOS-1 published a study by Don Klinkenberg and colleagues, now available at the US National Library of Medicine website, that explored how it'd work with smallpox, SARS (a coronavirus related to Covid), flu and foot-and-mouth disease. They found tracing's effectiveness depends on how soon it begins and how long the disease's incubation period (the time from infection to symptoms) is. In general, it's ineffective in diseases with “a small latent period or large delay,” and would be effective for the first two they studied but not the last two.

For Covid-19, the importance of such contact tracing was seen early in China, the pandemic's probable epicenter. According to a study from The Lancet Infectious Diseases on April 27, a research team led by

Qifang Bi found that it cut the average time between symptom onset to identification and quarantine roughly in half (from an average of 4.6 days when people were identified by symptoms themselves, to just 2.7 days for those identified by contact tracing).

“This analysis shows that isolation and contact tracing reduce the time during which cases are infectious in the community...,” they wrote. “The overall impact of isolation and contact tracing, however, is uncertain and highly dependent on the number of asymptomatic cases. Moreover, children are at a similar risk of infection to the general population, although less likely to have severe symptoms; hence they should be considered in analyses of transmission and control.”

Regarding severity, they noted 91 percent of patients

have “mild or moderate” cases (including six percent without symptoms), while the rest have “severe” cases.

When selectmen asked Grniet whether they had enough resources to do the job, she said they do, and, beyond that, have been able to provide some to the their contact families. In many cases, the neighbors beat them to it, by shopping for homebound folks and the like.

“People are so helpful to each other,” she noted. “We've been able to see a good side to it.”

In related business, Town Manager Jen Callahan noted the town has been getting “many questions from the public and businesses” regarding the state's phased reopening process since Gov Charles Baker announced it earlier last month. She said there are “templates” for various kinds of businesses, checklists, train-

ing and cleaning requirements, and posters, among other things.

Town health officials have had to give one local company, a fitness establishment, warnings and a cease-and-desist order for opening early. Such facilities are not yet allowed open under the governor's Phase 1 order, which set guidelines for the following: manufacturing, construction, worship sites, offices, car washes, hair salons/barbers, pet groomers and laboratories.

The town is itself working on that process, determining which offices can open and how, she added. Some already are, operating at about 25 percent of physical capacity to allow for social distancing.

“It's no different from what business has to deal with,” including “an awful lot of new protocols” and equipment, Callahan said.

Selectmen recognize officials for pandemic response

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — As the commonwealth begins to reopen following the months-long shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic communities across the state are beginning to voice their appreciation for the unsung heroes who worked behind the scenes to keep towns operational and respond appropriately to the health crisis.

Much has been said about the unsung heroes in Charlton including endless compliments to The Overlook, The Charlton Sewing Center and first responders for their hard work in combatting the spread of COVID-19

through numerous initiatives. However, the Board of Selectmen

also made a point to honor some behind-the-scenes heroes from within the town hall during a livestreamed meeting of the Board of Selectmen on May 27. Board chair David Singer wasted no time reading a letter of appreciation recognizing the efforts of the Town Administrator and the Board of Health for their continued efforts to keep the town of Charlton operating and informed from the get-go to keep residents, employees and visitors safe as the pandemic spread through Massachusetts.

“I think for the most part anyone can run for office and anyone can apply for a job and anyone can get elected and get hired, but it doesn't mean they can lead. No one really knows whether a leader can actually lead until that person or those people are tested,” Singer said. “We are giving a letter of commendation to Town Administrator Andrew Golas, Board of Health

Chair Matthew Gagnor and Jim Philbrook our health inspector. You three have shown that not only are you good at what you do, but when the times call for you to rise above and go beyond and really take the leadership role you've done it.”

Singer read the letter in full for the meeting and viewers to hear assuring that a copy of the letter will be sent to each of the recognized parties. Singer spoke on behalf of the entire board of selectmen thanking the Board of Health and Town Administrator for their continued efforts to lead the town through such unique and unsure times.

“We frankly can't thank you for the leadership you've displayed. Thankfully we're now on the tail end. We're coming out of it. It's been a couple of hectic months, but on behalf of the board you have our deepest thanks,” Singer said.

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THE AUBURN NEWS (546-680) is published weekly for \$45 per year (in county) by Stonebridge Press, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Out of county rate is \$56 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Southbridge. To subscribe call (800) 367-9898. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Auburn News, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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Meaghan Contois named to UVM Dean's List

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Meaghan Contois, Class of 2022, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2020 semester at the University of Vermont. Contois, from Auburn, is in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

To be named to the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

About UVM

Since 1791, the University of Vermont has worked to move humankind forward. Committed to both research and teaching, UVM professors — world-class researchers, scholars, and artists — bring their discoveries into the classroom and their students into the field. Located in Burlington, Vermont, one of the nation's most vibrant small cities and top college towns, UVM is a Public Ivy and top 100 national research university educating 10,700 undergraduate students, 1,627 graduate students, 776 certificate and non-degree students, and 478 M.D. students in the Larner College of Medicine.

Elizabeth Simonian recognized for academic excellence, leadership at Becker College

LEICESTER — Elizabeth Simonian, of Auburn, was recognized with the Legal Studies Award during a virtual Academic Awards Ceremony at Becker College. Simonian is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies.

The award celebrates academic excellence and leadership at Becker in the field of Legal Studies. To watch a video from the virtual Academic Awards Ceremony, go to https://becker.zoom.us/rec/share/3M1kcpX3-iRLSc-Tx36PWZcHHK9aaa8gHdP_aEMnk-skfwxnJ1CFx1R3uy9SdAu-?start-time=158888177000

Founded in 1784, Becker College is an undergraduate and graduate, career-focused private college, providing a supportive and inclusive learning community that prepares graduates for their first to last careers. Nearly 1,700 students from the United States and around the world attend Becker College, which has campuses both in Worcester and Leicester, Massachusetts. With nationally recognized programs in nursing, game design and animal studies, Becker has been consistently ranked as a “Best College” for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review.

Sturbridge native publishes Vietnam memoir

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE – From narrowly escaping a road mine to riding on convoys through Viet Cong territory, David Lyman’s memoir takes readers on a fascinating journey recalling his time as a Navy photojournalist in Vietnam.

Titled “Seabee 71 in Chu Lai – Memoir of a Navy Journalist with a Mobile Construction Battalion, 1967,” Lyman’s book required a year to write. Much of the content was gathered from material he’d already written while in the service.

“I read the stories I’d written 50 years ago into the dictation software on my iMac, then rewrote them adding stories that I couldn’t have published while in the Navy,” said Lyman, who graduated from Tantasqua High School in 1958. “The stories came from the monthly newspaper I wrote, photographed, and edited while on deployment.”

In the 1940s and ‘50s, Lyman grew up in a hunting lodge on Fiskdale’s Big Alum Lake. Upon graduation from Tantasqua, he majored in mechanical engineering at Western New England College before attending Boston University as a journalism major.

In his 230-page memoir, Lyman recalls the harrowing days and nights spent writing and photographing in wartime.

“The book is meant for other Seabees and their families, who want to read about what it was like back in 1967 to live and work with a war going on all around you. It’s the only memoir that deals with Seabees in Vietnam,” said Lyman, who served with the MCB-71 Seabee Battalion for 14 months.

Having written six books, Lyman has covered a variety of subjects and is seeking to publish the others. Among his manuscripts are four children’s literature books, plus a book chronicling his adventures in Cuba and another book on the creative process for artists and entrepreneurs.

Throughout his life, Lyman has always enjoyed sharing stories through multiple formats. He looks forward to continuing to connect with readers and bring people together through common interests.

“Writing stories of my adventures is something I’ve done since I was in high school,” Lyman said. “My career after Tantasqua and college was in radio, television, photography, and journalism.”

After his Navy service, Lyman went on to edit weekly newspapers in Vermont and Cape Cod. In 1973, he launched a summer school for photographers in the harbor village of Rockport, Maine. Over the next 34 years, he built the school into an international conservatory. In 1996, the school became a college with an undergraduate and MFA graduate program.

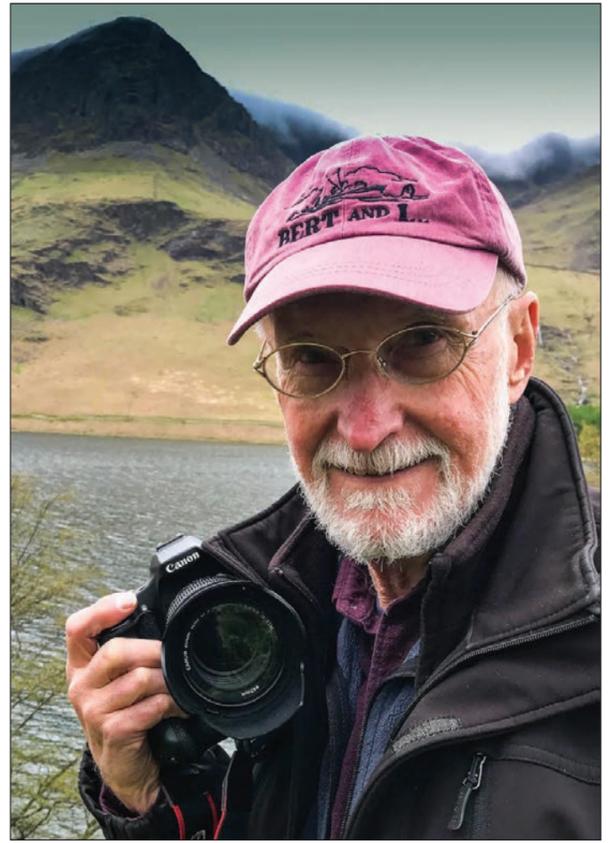
Now, in retirement, Lyman is taking advantage of the opportunity to focus entirely on his writing. His wide variety of titles will be enjoyed by readers of all ages.

“Since retiring, I’ve been writing books I wanted to write while I was busy building an educational empire. Now I have the time, the material, and my memory still intact,” Lyman said. “I’m creating something to share with family, fellow travelers, and anyone interested.”

Lyman’s memoir was released by McFarland Publishing. It is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and McFarland Publishing.

For more information on the memoir, or to check out photos and sample chapters, visit www.Seabee71.com.

Lyman is currently wrapping up a draft of his next project, a memoir of growing up on a lake in Sturbridge. The book will cover his memories of Sturbridge’s old drive-in theater, watching Tantasqua High School being built, working at WARE radio, and filling ice cream cones at Deary Brothers, among several others. Local residents will enjoy reading about Sturbridge in the ‘50s and ‘60s.



Courtesy

Author David Lyman’s memoir provides readers with a lens into wartime photography and reporting

QCC President, Chief of Police respond to Floyd protests

W O R C E S T E R — Quinsigamond Community College President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja and QCC’s Chief of Police Kevin Ritacco have put out two statements to the QCC community about the recent death of Mr. George Floyd and the riots and protests going on across America.

President Pedraja’s statement:

“As I began to write this earlier in the week, I had a different message in mind. I had planned to write about the lessons we’ve learned from the pandemic or about how the challenges we face make us stronger. Yet, neither seems appropriate for the moment. Throughout the week, I’ve struggled with the images in the news. The rising death toll that numbs us to the many heartbreaks and losses so many families are enduring. I see the disproportionate number of minorities that are dying in this pandemic; the lack of resources for the most vulnerable in our community. I see the self-appointed posse of vigilantes hunting down a black jogger, claiming self-defense. The images of George Floyd struggling to breathe, his cries callously ignored.

“I’ve struggled for days to find words that can express the unbearable sorrow, anger, and frustration that I feel in every fiber of my being; my soul aches. Maybe that is for the best. Words are cheap when lives are at stake; they fall on deaf and uncaring ears. Words are twisted and spat back at our face dripping with the poison of ridicule, sarcasm, and malice. Words are silenced as we gasp for air under a chokehold or knee. Words alone do not change history or bend its moral arc. Our words do not define us; our actions do.

“The callous action of an individual should not taint the valor and dedication of those who risk their lives to protect us, but the lack of a swift response to those actions should alarm us. We are a nation divided, where truth and reason seem to have succumbed to the violence of hate and the vile rhetoric that demonizes those who are different from us. The pandemic is but a mere symptom of the disease that plagues our society; the cancer that is eating us from within. If anything, the pandemic has revealed the fractures in our society, the inequities entrenched through centuries of systemic oppression. We see it every day in the struggles of our students, the almost insurmountable challenges they face

as they pursue their education. We can no longer afford to ignore the equity gaps, the injustices in society, the disregard for our common humanity. Words alone will not suffice; we must act. We cannot afford to sit idly by.

“There are days when I fear that the voices of our better angels will be muted by the demons of hatred that haunt us; days when I fear that the darkness that has engulfed us will suffocate the light. Yet, I believe, I must believe, that the dimmest of light will burn more brightly in the darkest of night and that even love defeated is stronger than hate. Throughout history colleges and universities often led the way, sowing the seeds of knowledge and freedom, reinventing our world, and serving as a catalyst for change. In the hallowed halls of colleges and universities, we value differences, protect dissent, and engage in civil discourse. We challenge ideas, seek common ground; focus on solutions rather than blame. I believe in the power of education to effect change. Through education we can lift the veil of lies, ignorance, and fear that has descended upon us. We may try to hide the truth, to deny it, to ignore it, but we cannot escape it. Inevitably, truth will set us free. I invite you, as a college community to lead the way, to be the catalysts of change that our world needs in these trying times.”

Chief Ritacco’s statement:

“As the Chief of Police for the Quinsigamond Community College Police Department for the last 15 years, as well as a 39-year veteran of the force, the death of George Floyd in Minnesota has left me appalled, disgust-

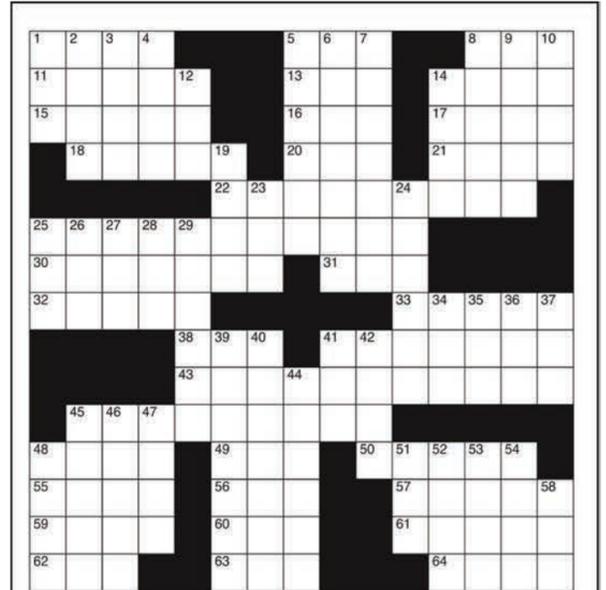
ed and disillusioned. I strongly condemn the actions of this former police officer and his colleagues as they demonstrated the very worst actions of not only a police officer, but also as a human being. These officers lost sight of their mission to protect and service the public in the most disrespectful and horrific manner. Their actions have left all professional law enforcement officers angry and disheartened. My department embraces a professional approach to law enforcement, emphasizing superior service, community policing and impartial enforcement of all laws and regulations. The police officers of my department handle themselves professionally and treat each member of our community with respect and consideration regardless of the situation. They have worked extremely hard through their community policing efforts to develop a rapport with the students, faculty and staff of QCC. Their jobs just became much more difficult because of the incredulous nature of the actions that lead to the death of George Floyd.

“Law enforcement professionals must now work together to continue to do their work while rebuilding trust with the communities that they serve.”

LEGALS

Public Notice

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Elm Hill Water District to be held at The District Office, 55 Jerome Ave., Auburn. Edward P. Guries, Chairman June 5, 2020

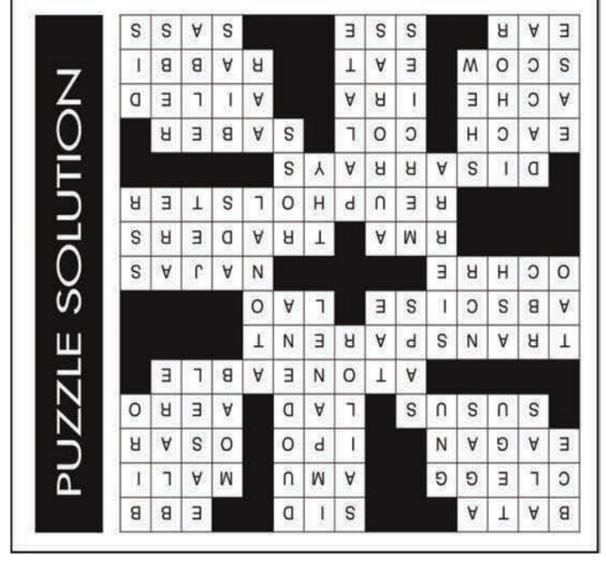


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Swiss shoe company
- 5. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 8. ___ and flow
- 11. Horsefly
- 13. Egyptian pharaoh
- 14. African nation
- 15. Tony-winning actress Daisy
- 16. Initial public offering
- 17. Long-winding ridge
- 18. Guinea peoples
- 20. Fellow
- 21. About aviation
- 22. Able to make amends
- 25. Easy to perceive
- 30. Cut off
- 31. Northeast Thai language
- 32. Earthy pigment
- 33. Water nymphs
- 38. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 41. Those who deal
- 43. Apply a new fabric
- 45. Confusions
- 48. “To ___ his own”
- 49. Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- 50. Heavy cavalry sword
- 55. Partner to pain
- 56. A type of savings account
- 57. In a way, felt pain
- 59. Wide-beamed sailing dinghy
- 60. Consume
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Body part
- 63. Midway between south and southeast
- 64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

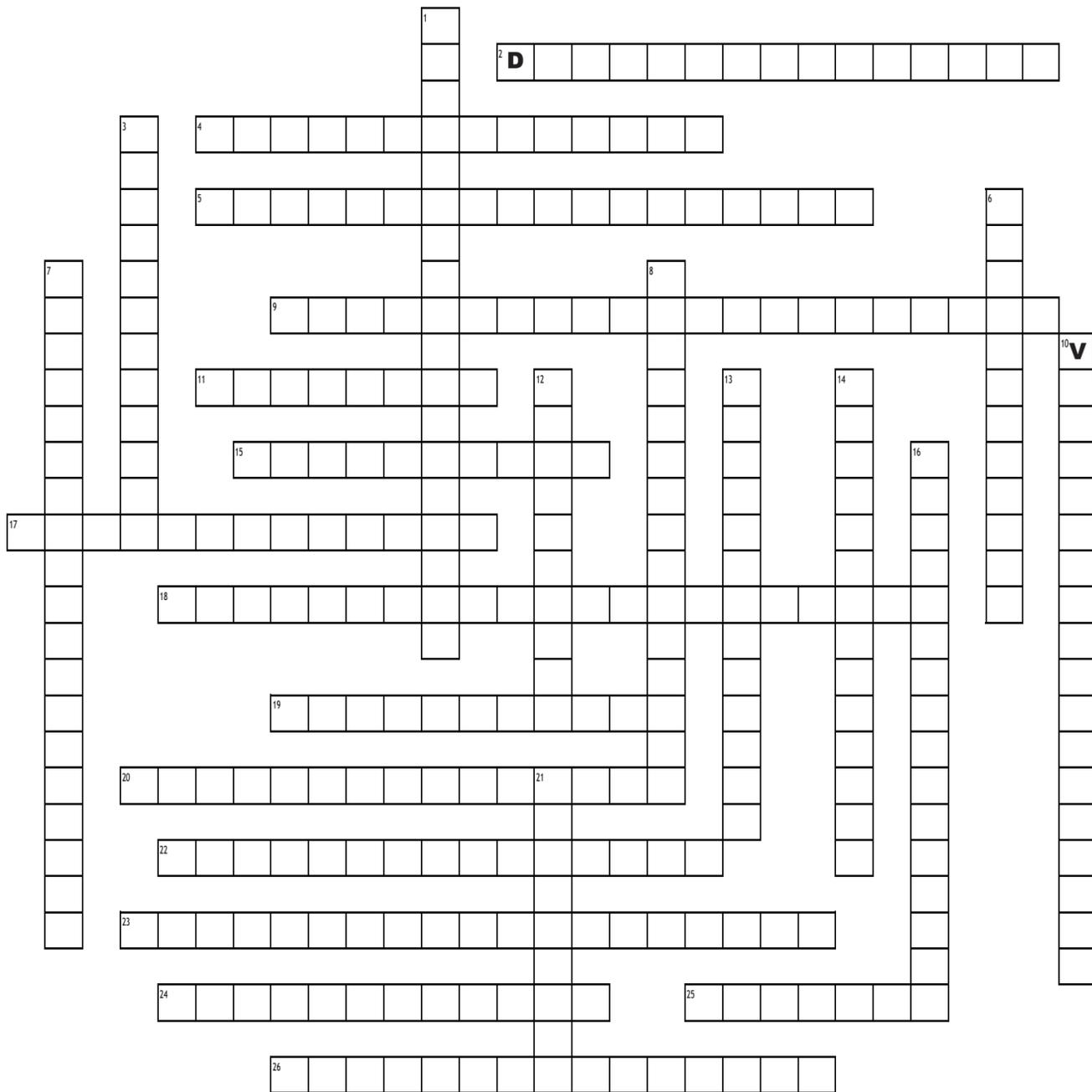
- 1. Indicates a certain time (abbr.)
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Central American lizard
- 4. Muslim military commanders
- 5. One who takes to the seas
- 6. Select jury
- 7. Parts of the small intestine
- 8. Painter’s accessory
- 9. Honk
- 10. Ballpoint pen
- 12. Large, dark antelope
- 14. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 19. Exhausts
- 23. ___-bo: exercise system
- 24. Not written in any key or mode
- 25. Chinese principle underlying the universe
- 26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 27. Powdery, post-burning residue
- 28. Company that rings receipts
- 29. Rugged mountain range
- 34. Commercials
- 35. NY football player
- 36. A form of be
- 37. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 39. Kindnesses
- 40. Natural electrical phenomenon
- 41. Your
- 42. Diana __, singer
- 44. Upper surface of the mouth
- 45. National capital
- 46. Fluid in Greek mythology
- 47. Renowned jazz trumpeter
- 48. Freedom from difficulty
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Revolutionaries
- 58. Criticize



2nd Annual ABC's of the Seasons

Spring Edition

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on the ABC's Page



ACROSS

- 2. Instant Credit - In-Shop Repairs
- 4. Helping You Get Back Home.
- 5. Official Sponsor Of The Boston Bruins
- 9. We Are A Deficiency Free Community Facility
- 11. Breakfast \$9
- 15. \$25 Dinner For Two
- 17. Outside Seating Now Open!
- 18. Experience, Education, Enthusiasm. It Makes A Difference!
- 19. Free Oil Change To Any Doctor Or Nurse With Valid Hospital ID
- 20. Engagements, Weddings, Birthday, Anniversaries, Or Just Because
- 22. White's Landing
- 23. 1182 Park St., Palmer, Ma 01069
- 24. 50% Off Leaf Guards With Gutter Installation
- 25. Hair Lashes Waxing Skincare Facials Massage
- 26. Find Our Bogo Coupon On Our Website

DOWN

- 1. Update On Covid-19 For Our Patients
- 3. Get Back To You
- 6. Covid-19 Safety Protocols At All Times
- 7. One Time Treatments Starting At \$125
- 8. Maple Syrup Products, Country Toys
- 10. 2nd Building Complete
- 12. Call Us Today 508-868-4291
- 13. Everybody Talks
- 14. Rental Car Or Truck Can Be Arranged For You
- 16. Read All About It
- 21. 16 Years Real Estate Experience

2nd Annual ABC'S OF THE SEASONS, SPRING EDITION

Hint... answers don't always include the entire business name.

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Circle which paper you found this in: *Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News*

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Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on the ABC's Page. Enter to win a \$25 gift card to a local business by mailing in your completed crossword to ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Friday, June 26th. Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the July 3rd issue. One entry per person. Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!



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BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

The chosen class

Students throughout the area are flipping tassels this week, albeit not in the traditional way. But while nothing about this rite of passage will unfold as expected this year, we hope that our local graduates seize the opportunity to fulfill Oprah Winfrey's prophetic comment that they are "the chosen class."

Many seniors and their underclassmen counterparts have faced big changes as they navigate the world amid a global pandemic. This summer, finding work won't be as easy as it once was, and figuring out if college campuses will even open this fall remains another question mark. With that being said, this time in an 18-year-old's life is still quite pivotal.

Students will be bombarded with advice and speeches as these final weeks unfold. Our favorite bit of advice, however, is the following

1. Don't smoke
2. Drink plenty of water every day; and
3. Wear sunscreen (your 40-year-old selves will thank you)
4. Spend as much time as humanly possible outside; and
5. Watch the Back to the Future trilogy.

The most important thing you can do, however, is to find out who you are. From there the entire world opens up. Do not limit your lives to the same scene and same people you have always surrounded yourself with. This doesn't mean you need to forget people or places, it simply means that now is a great time to branch out. The more people you meet in different places, with different experiences will shed light on who you really are.

Always remember your roots. These are what has shaped you and prepared you for your next chapter. Remember how important your community has been to you, and remember to always give back.

Always practice kindness, even when it's hard. The world can aggravate and frustrate the most mellow of us. Anger is a normal human emotion, however it's what you do with it that really matters. If you have disagreements or you think the way you feel about a certain issue is correct, remember to not let your anger take you over. It never feels good, plus harboring too much anger and discontent ages us, plus it's really no fun. The more fun and kindness you have in your life, the happier you are. Try to find balance between your work and your leisure time. Spend time doing the things you love, and never forget what those things are, despite how busy your life may become.

As you go through life, you will make mistakes. None of us are perfect and mistakes can actually define who we become if we learn from them. The best formula for mistake making, is to own up to them, have some self awareness, be gentle on yourself, learn, then move on. Simple.

Remember to follow your own gut, always, no matter what. This is your life, and you are the one who needs to make it what it is and what it will be.

And above all, we invite our readers to join us in expressing congratulations to the class of 2020!

Garden "Recipes" to Try

It's growing season and nearly every successful backyard gardener uses a few tricks of the trade to ensure a successful season. But the average gardener is not without challenges this time of year, whether it is repelling pesky garden pets or curing black spot disease. With this in mind, the following tried and true "recipes," made from ordinary household ingredients offer a creative solution to common lawn and garden problems.

*Note, these are home "recipes" from multiple sources. Use with caution and at your own risk.

Natural Pesticide
 If the bugs are bugging your precious plants, try this natural insecticide to rid your garden of the hungry pests without harsh chemicals.

Ingredients: Three hot green peppers (canned or fresh); two or three cloves of garlic; three quarters of a tsp. liquid detergent or soap; three cups water.
Instructions: Puree the peppers and garlic cloves in a blender. Pour into a spray bottle and add the liquid soap and water. Let stand 24 hours. Strain out pulp and spray onto infested plants, making sure to coat both tops and bottoms of leaves. Caution: Always test any new insecticide on a few small plants first.

Easy Pesticide
 This mild insecticide uses only two ingredients, but gives bugs a powerful one-two punch!

Ingredients: One gallon water; 1/3 cup Murphy Oil Soap
Instructions: Mix oil soap with water and apply to stems and leaves of plants.

Flower Bed Pet Deterrent
 Made from pantry dry goods, this chemical free recipe has been used for generations of gardeners to repel pets from garden beds.

Ingredients: one part cayenne pepper; two parts dry mustard powder; four parts flour
Directions: Mix in a large paper grocery bag by holding the neck of the bag and shaking it. Distribute generously in the beds. Repellent must be reapplied after watering.

Spring Lawn Feeding Mix
 This feeding solution uses basic ingredients for fast and easy lawn upkeep.

Ingredients: One cup Epsom salts; one cup ammonia
Instructions: To use with a hose sprayer, mix with



TAKE THE HINT
 KAREN TRAINOR

enough water to equal one quart total volume and pour into the sprayer container. Fertilizes 2,500 square feet of lawn.

* * *
Green Lawn Cocktail
 Give your lawn a healthy boost with this cocktail, which features the unexpected addition of beer to the above "recipe".

Ingredients: one cup Epsom salts; one cup household ammonia; one can beer; two cups water
Directions: Pour into hose-end sprayer and apply. Covers and peeps up about 2000 square feet.

* * *
All Purpose Lawn Fertilizer
 Lush lawns don't have to be a luxury with this homemade brew.

Ingredients: One can of beer; one can of cola (not diet); one box or cup of apple juice; one cup lemon scented dishwashing liquid; one cup ammonia; one cup liquid lawn fertilizer.
Instructions: Mix together all ingredients. If you buy liquid lawn fertilizer with a hose sprayer attachment, you can use the attachment with any one liter bottle to make a 50 gallon sprayer. Spray your lawn and garden with the above mixture every three weeks, early in the day.
 *For houseplants, mix four shot glasses of the above mixture to one gallon of water and add one quarter tsp. unflavored gelatin.

Black Spot Cure for Roses
 Get roses back in tip top shape with this simple spray.

Ingredients: three tablespoons baking soda; one gallon water.
Directions: Mix together both ingredients and spray roses. Pick up any fallen rose leaves and burn them or take them to the dump.

Miracle Grower Garden Tonic
 Are your plants suffering from lackluster leaves? Are your blooms bowing out? Try this tonic to miraculously rejuvenate your plants this growing season.

Ingredients: Five gallon bucket; water; three pkgs. unflavored gelatin; two cups Epsom salts; one teaspoon Borax (boron); one fourth cup dishwashing liquid (made with vegetable oils, not animal fats).
Instructions: Put gelatin and Epsom salts in bucket

as you fill it with water, so they will dissolve properly. Add borax and stir. Put soap in last (to keep down suds). Mix well. Use about two cups of formula per plant or group of plants. May be poured directly over foliage and allowed to soak in ground. In two to three days, plants and foliage should perk up nicely.

Cut Garden Flower Preservative
 The theory behind this recipe is that Listerine contains sucrose and a bactericide to extend the life of cut flowers.

Ingredients: two ounces Listerine mouthwash; one gallon water
Directions: Mix together and pour into vase of cut flowers.

Exterior Mildew Wash
 Extinguish mold on outside garden walls and other surfaces with this powerful mildew wash.

Ingredients: three quarts warm water; one quart liquid laundry bleach, such as Clorox; one quarter cup powdered laundry detergent such as Tide; two thirds of a cup trisodium phosphate (available at paint stores)
Directions: Mix well and apply to surfaces with a stiff broom. Let stand for one half hour. Rinse well with a garden hose to prevent damage to plants. Wear rubber gloves when handling.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Silver age comic books



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
 WAYNE TUISKULA

In my last column, I offered a brief history of comic books and discussed Modern Age and Bronze Age comic books. I will discuss the Silver Age of comic books in this column, which took place from 1956 to 1970. Some sources, including Britannica, list 1969 as the final year though.

Even though comic books were popular during the Silver Age, Britannica notes that the genre faced new competition during the 1950's. The Adventures of Superman ran on television from 1953 to 1957. Many comic book readers switched from reading Superman to viewing him on television.

DC Comics turned to other themes like science fiction and the Cold War with Russia to attract more readers, according to Britannica. In 1955, they introduced the first new character in approximately 10 years, the Manhunter from Mars. They also released updated versions of superheroes from the past: the new Flash, the new Green Lantern, Justice League and the "New Look" Batman.

The Justice League was generating such strong results for DC Comics in 1961 that Marvel Comics shifted its focus to superheroes. The Fantastic Four's premier edition was published in November of 1961. Marvel later created the Incredible Hulk, the Mighty Thor, Daredevil, the X-Men, Captain America and the Amazing Spider-Man.



Guinness World Records website has a timeline of the introduction of new comic book characters. Supergirl first appeared in 1959. The Justice

League was first published in 1960. As previously mentioned, the Fantastic Four was created in 1961. 1962 saw the introduction of the Incredible Hulk and Spider-Man. Ironman and the X-Men first appeared in 1963.

In our last live auction, we sold a first edition of the Incredible Hulk. Despite being in only fair condition, it went for \$4,500. High quality Silver Age comics in near perfect condition can bring huge prices. A Fantastic Four # 1 sold for over \$200,000 in 2012. In 2018, Justice League issue # 1 also brought over \$200,000. An Incredible Hulk # 1 sold for over a third of a million dollars in 2018. A first issue of X-Men fetched nearly \$500,000 in 2012. A 1962 copy of Amazing Fantasy # 15 featuring the first appearance of Spider-Man sold for nearly \$800,000 at auction this year. That should have made the consignor feel almost superhuman.

Unfortunately, there is some disappointing local antique news. The July Brimfield Antique Show has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The September show is still scheduled though for Sept. 8 through the 13.

As I mentioned in my last column, we are changing our approach to keep everyone safe and healthy during these times. The good news is that we have reopened online bidding on our Rutland farm estate auction. We will have a preview on June 20. Masks will be required and we will be following social distancing guidelines. Bidding will end on June 24. We continue to accept smaller sized, high quality consignments that can be shipped to bidders across the country for our online only auction that will take place this month, ending on June 25.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

The optimism of the human spirit

The events unfolding as I pen this column are an insult to the human spirit. The unnecessary and terrible death of a fellow human being at the hand of someone we should trust is beyond the limits of the word tragic. I'll resist dedicating the limited space available weekly by repeating what many other columnists are writing in the despair we all feel over the death of George Floyd. My sympathies are with his family.



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
 GARY W. MOORE

Buried in the tragedy is our nations return to human space travel. The weekend accomplishment of a wildly successful joint venture between SpaceX and NASA was something in which we should all take pride.

For the first time since 2011, American astronauts were delivered safely and successfully to the International Space Station by this collaboration between the private sector and the federal government. The United States of America has once again taken the lead and made us all proud.

I think that all the advancements are not as important as the effect these achievements have on the human spirit.

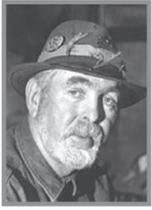
Space.com writes, "Many of us still remember the first time we saw Earth from the Moon's orbit, when the astronauts of Apollo 8 filmed it on Christmas Eve, in 1968. Many argue this global awareness started the conservation movement, which might turn out to be the space program's greatest spinoff and may save the earth's climate in the long run. Many of us were inspired when we saw the astronauts walk on the Moon, and realized that if mankind could do that, we could do almost anything. The achievements of NASA's unmanned spacecraft are phenomenal, and deserving of acclaim, but they don't lift people's spirits to these heights."

Our return to manned space travel is important beyond the technology it inspires. I'm a Baby Boomer. I remember as if it were yesterday, the pride of the nation as our Mercury Astronauts were breaking new ground and taking our nation into space. We were taken out of our grade school classes and brought to the gymnasium while five hundred students crowded around a small black and white television screen and strug-

gled breathlessly to watch John Glenn become the first human being to orbit the earth. The technological climax of it all was as Neil Armstrong placed the first human foot in history on the Moon.

The pride and sheer joy of American's have maybe never been higher since that day. It made our generation believe the stars were not the limits and we could achieve anything our minds could conceive. The very idea that we are on the path to sending astronauts to Mars is an incredible tribute to the indelible optimism of the human spirit. As Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX says, "There is a difference between improbable and impossible. If we are not defying the laws of physics, any challenge can be met and accomplished through engineering." That is pure optimism and it's true.

NASA says, "Human space exploration helps to address fundamental questions about our place in the Universe and the history of our solar system. Through addressing the challenges related to human space exploration we expand technology, create new industries, and help to foster a peaceful connection with other nations."



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

Of blackfish and boat ramps

The Covid-19 outbreak has anglers searching for answers relative to nonresidents of Rhode Island using boat ramps in Rhode Island and residents of Rhode Island using boat ramps in Massachusetts! This weekend, a couple of Rhode Island anglers were ready to launch their boat in Plymouth, Mass., hoping to catch some mackerel. They were quickly turned away by law enforcement. The ramps are open to Massachusetts residents only!

I was told that Rhode Island had the same practice, but it did not seem as though it was being enforced. I would recommend boaters that are planning to use boat ramps in Rhode Island, call the Environmental Police headquarters in Rhode Island before heading out. I tried to reach the agency over the weekend, but was unable to reach them.

This past week, Matt Fontain & this writer fished Galilee Rhode Island hoping to catch a few fish for the dinner table. We launched the boat at the state ramp, that was renovated a few

years ago. There was only a couple of cars with boat trailers in the parking lot, that had evidently gone fishing. We had stopped at Quaker Lane bait & Tackle shop to purchase a few green crabs, as we planned to catch a few tautog before the season closed, at the end of the month.

It was extremely foggy, with only a quarter mile visibility as we headed out from the boat ramp. Fortunately, Matt had a great Lowrance GPS that made it easy to navigate out to our fishing spot. This writer has been fishing the area for many years, and was extremely comfortable with the foggy conditions. After we located a few fish, we shut the motor down and started to drift, hoping to catch a few Legal-size fluke.

It was not long before we started to get a few bites on our squid strips, but we only managed to catch a few sea robins, which are mainly trash fish, although some people do eat them. They can also be cut up as bait for bottom feeding fish. This writer was drifting a piece of squid on a single hook when my rod tip suddenly bent to the water. I quickly set the hook and I real-

ized I had a decent fish on the rod. A bit of line was stripped from the reel, as Matt quickly grabbed the net when he saw the large seabass come into view. I gently maneuvered the fish towards the net, which was scooped up and placed in the boat.

«Nice sea-bass,» I remarked. Unfortunately, we had to release the fish because the season does not open until June in Rhode Island. The season is already open in Massachusetts, but the rules and regulations on saltwater recreational fishing vary from state to state. We took a quick picture and released the fish. It will more than likely end up in a commercial trawlers net before the day was out, as three trawlers were working not far from our boat! The fog had finally lifted and revealed numerous boats in the area.

Matt loves to fish as much as I do, and he was as excited as I was when his rod tip surged to the water. He quickly set the hook and the fight was on. «Another nice fish,» I remarked.

I thought he had another sea-bass but when the fish came into view, I realized he had a nice tautog. Catching a tautog (black fish) on a fluke



rig is extremely rare. I quickly grabbed the net and scooped up the four pound tautog and set it on the floor of the boat. After placing the fish into the live well, we continued fishing.

Finally, I managed to hook into a 17-inch fluke which also had to be released, as the new regulation on fluke for recreational anglers was increased to 19 inches this year. Before releasing the fish, I noticed something in his mouth, and upon opening his mouth, I took

the pliers and removed a five-inch sand eel from him. Sand eels are more common bait fish on the Cape, as I have never observed one during all of my years of fishing in Rhode Island.

The tide was ready to change so we decided to target some tautog. We headed for the light house area at Point Judith, set the anchor after finding some rocky areas and started to use crabs for bait. It was a slow bite but we managed to catch a few undersize tautog and

a few scup. The fog was starting to move back in so we decided to call it a day. Matt started the 90 horsepower motor, and we headed back to the launch area. It was a great day on the water.

Stripers are reported to be in at the Providence River again. Hopefully, they will stay around for a while. Bluefish have also started to bite in the river also.

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GARDEN
MOMENTS
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MELINDA
MYERS

bird appeal. Our native purple and pale purple coneflowers are always a good choice, but a few relatively new hardy varieties increase the color options for gardeners. The 2020 AAS Winner Sombrero® Baja Burgundy was trialed for three years, survived brutal winter

and summer conditions and continued to produce deep-violet-red flowers midsummer to frost. Cheyenne Spirit Echinacea produces a mix of purple, pink, red and orange flowers while PowWow Wild Berry's compact plants are topped with deep rose-purple flowers. Start these two from seed in early spring and be rewarded with colorful flowers the first summer.

A popular companion of coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, are sure to add a bright spot of color to any garden. And as the flowers fade, they provide an abundance of seed for birds to enjoy fall through winter. The 2020 AAS Winner American Gold Rush provides all the beauty plus a resistance to Septoria leaf spot disease.

Longtime favorite flowers like cosmos, coreopsis, marigolds and zinnias also help bring in the seed-eating birds. Select single flowered varieties for maximum seed production. Radiance and Cosmic Orange cosmos, Sahara Starlight and the Profusion series of zinnias are a few outstanding performers to consider.

Look for other award-winning varieties that attract seed-eating birds, hummingbirds and other pollinators to your garden on the AAS website (all-americaelections.org). AAS is a non-profit

trialing organization with test gardens and volunteer judges across the United States and Canada. Winners are selected for their outstanding performance in home gardens and containers.

Increase your garden's beauty, decrease maintenance and bring in the birds with a few of these winning flower varieties.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* gardening DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by AAS for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

placed with an adoptive family who shares his love for adventure. Justin enjoys school activities such as swimming and exploring the sensory room. He benefits from specialized supports and supervision. Justin has made many strides since being at his current placement; his team is proud of the progress he is making with his communication skills, too.

Justin is legally freed for adoption. We are looking for a family with room in their hearts and lives to support Justin and his needs into adulthood. Justin especially enjoys being around other children. His social worker is hopeful to match him with a dedicated two-parent family in Massachusetts that has knowledge of medical needs.

Who Can Adopt?
Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

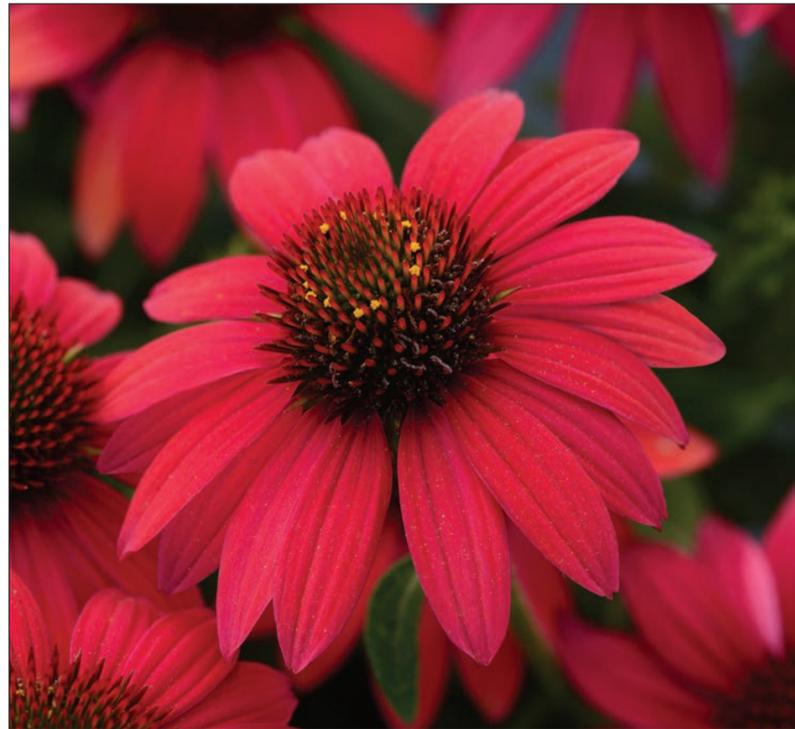


Photo Courtesy

After surviving brutal winter and summer conditions, Echinacea Sombrero® Baja Burgundy, a 2020 All-America Selections winner, continued to produce flowers midsummer to frost during a three-year plant trial.

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Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Justin and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" is one of my favorite songs to sing along to!

Justin is a cheerful Hispanic boy who always has a bright smile on his face! He loves listening to music, singing along to nursery rhymes, dancing, and being read to. When Justin hears a familiar song, he will clap his hands and cheer! Justin loves any opportunity to be in the car and go someplace new. In fact, his visiting resource expressed Justin's excitement for going out to eat and strolling around the mall. Justin is a curious child who will continue to find joy and wonder when

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OBITUARIES

Vincent A Menzone



DUDLEY - Vincent A. "Vinny" Menzone, 86, died Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at home surrounded by his family following a struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

He is survived by his wife Joan B. (Bednarz) Menzone. They would have celebrated 65 years of marriage on June 11th. He also leaves a son Vincent D Menzone and his wife Ann; a daughter Sharon L. Rayla and her husband Mark. Four grandchildren, Vincent T. Menzone (Rebecca), David J. Menzone (Jennifer), Kelsey M. Buccelli (John) and Matthew M. Rayla (Olivia Gumienny); two step-granddaughters Kimberly Pelletier, Meggen Cantillon and their families and three great-grandchildren, Vincent A. Menzone, Bella M. Menzone and Lilliana M. Menzone. He leaves a brother, Donald J. Menzone. Vinny and Don had a special bond. They were very close and worked together in a number of real estate ventures. He also leaves close friend and brother-in-law Roger Brousseau. Vinny is also survived by his sister-in-law Dolores Robbins (David) and sister in law Nancy Powers (Andy) and several nieces and nephews. His sister, Patricia Brousseau, whom he loved dearly died just 6 weeks ago. He is also pre-deceased by Don's wife, Ida Menzone.

He was born at home on December 17, 1933 the son of Vincent and Dolores (Plasse) Menzone and lived in Dudley/

Webster his entire life. He attended Saint Louis High School and earned his accounting degree from Worcester Junior College.

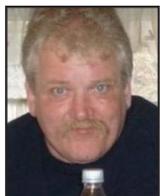
Vinny worked at Ethan Allen for nearly 40 years, retiring as the Plant Manager in 1988. He was a real estate investor/entrepreneur and contractor. He always had a "project" going whether it was building the strip mall in Auburn or renovating his other commercial or residential properties. He also built or helped to build many family homes. Vinny was an avid outdoorsman, who loved to hunt, boat and fish. Most importantly he was a kind and caring family man, devoting much of his retirement to his grandchildren. "Grandpop" took them ice fishing, deep sea fishing, hiking in the woods, swimming, wood working, or just playing cards and board games. If there was fun to be had, Grandpop and Grammy were making it happen!

Vinny will be remembered for his love of family, his consideration of others, his appreciation of nature and his generous spirit.

His funeral will be held on Monday, June 8, at 10:00 AM at Saint Louis Church, 15 Lake Street, Webster, MA. Burial will be private. Donations in his memory may be made to VNA Hospice & Palliative Care 120 Thomas St. Worcester, MA 01608 or www.vnacare.org/donors. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home of Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

Michael A. Plasse, 63



WEBSTER - Michael A. Plasse, 63, passed away peacefully at the Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge on Monday May 18, 2020.

Michael is survived by his son Jacob Plasse of Webster; four sisters: Christyne Plasse of Webster, Rachelle Aubin of CT, Marcella Bugbee of Webster, and Linda Plasse of CA; he also leaves many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. Michael was pre-deceased by his sister Rhonda Plasse of Dudley.

Michael was born in Webster on February 17, 1957, son of the late George

M. and Carol A. (Williams) Plasse; he lived in the Dudley/Webster area all his life. Michael worked for Holland Landscaping for many years; he greatly enjoyed riding his motorcycle and spending time with his family and friends.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday May 27, 2020 at 10:00 am in Mount Zion Cemetery in Webster.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Michael.

Paul R. Plotczyk, 71



WORCESTER - Paul R. Plotczyk, 71, a lifelong resident of Worcester died Sunday, May 24 at MA General Hospital in Boston.

He leaves his wife of four years, Sonja (Miller) Plotczyk, his former wife, Sheila Noonan of Worcester, the mother of his three children, two sons, Edward J. Plotczyk and his wife Kerrie of Worcester, Christian G. Plotczyk and his wife Domenica of Miami, FL., a daughter, Megan D. Blanchard and her husband Joseph of Framingham, a step-daughter Audrey Rose, a sister, Alice M. Plotczyk of Auburn, and her daughter Lisa Plotczyk (Lee) of California.

8 grandchildren; Lily, Owen, Isabella, Gabriella, Jason, Allison, Jordan, Ella and his loving nieces, Scottanna Walker and Hughanna Brown.

Born in Worcester, he was the son of Edward A. & Alyce (Zawalich) Plotczyk.

Paul was a graduate of Worcester Boys Trade, the former Worcester Industrial

Technical Institute, Worcester State College and Anna Maria College. After graduating from Anna Maria with a bachelor's degree in Psychology, Paul worked at the crisis center on Chandler St., in Worcester.

Paul was also a marketing consultant, working out of his home, for over 30 years with DBA Work Systems Affiliates International in Worcester.

Paul's passion was riding his Harley. He spent many hours on long rides with his friends and family.

He loved spending time with his family and grandchildren. He also loved his travels to Jamaica. Paul loved visiting his son Ed at Breens Cafe, visiting his son Christian and his family in Miami, going to Megan's kids baseball, soccer and hockey games. Paul cherished his moments with his family.

At the family's request a Celebration of Paul's life will be held at a later date when all can attend.

The MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with arrangements.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

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Project New Hope receives donation for veterans, military families

WORCESTER—On May 26, Padraic Rafferty, Associate Attorney at Edén Rafferty Attorneys at Law, and candidate for Massachusetts Governor's Council, visited Project New Hope in Worcester to deliver a \$500 donation. Rafferty was joined by Sterling resident and US Army veteran Fionuala Dullea, who donated a large quantity of baby supplies, including diapers, formula, and hygiene products.

Project New Hope was founded in January 2011 by Bill Moore, a disabled US Air Force veteran and former social worker. Project New Hope serves all six New England states, and helps veterans transition from military to civilian life, and to create mutual support networks and camaraderie among veterans, wounded warriors and military

families.

"These donations mean more to Project New Hope than I can say," said Moore. "We have a lot of military families with disabilities, and they're struggling. They are often reluctant to ask for help. They're the first to offer help, but the last to ask for it. What we offer is a hand up, not a handout."

In addition to a food pantry, Project New Hope offers supplies for children from newborn through toddler. All items are brand new, including clothing donated by Carter's, a major American designer of children's apparel.

"The donation of diapers is huge for us," said Moore. "Diapers and formula are so expensive, which can pose a real hardship for families, especially when there's

a disability. I know our military families will be as grateful as I am for these generous donations."

Padraic Rafferty is an attorney and candidate for Massachusetts Governor's Council. He became aware of the need among veterans and military families through his association and friendship with Dullea, a US Army veteran. "It's an honor to be here at Project New Hope and to hear about the enormous service they're providing to veterans and active military families," he said. "As the father of a one-year-old, I'm hugely aware of not only the joys of parenthood, but of the significant expense involved. I'm delighted to help this wonderful organization."

Massachusetts will hold an election for all eight

seats on the Governor's Council on November 3. The primary is scheduled for September 1. The Massachusetts Governor's Council is a governmental body that provides advice and consent in certain matters, such as judicial nominations, pardons, and commutations, to the Governor

of Massachusetts. In addition to the regular court system, there are six specialized courts in Massachusetts that are dedicated to veterans' issues, with the goal of reducing incarceration and recidivism rates among veterans, while helping them to address mental health, substance abuse, and other issues

they may face.

For more information about Project New Hope, visit www.ProjectNewHopeMA.org.

For more information about Padraic Rafferty, candidate for Massachusetts Governor's Council, visit www.facebook.com/VoteRafferty/.

Health professionals attend QCC's free course

WORCESTER

Quinsigamond Community College's Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education has met the challenges of the global pandemic head-on by recently offering a free course on infection control and barrier protection proficiency. Hundreds of practicing allied health professionals attended the course, which focused on pragmatic prevention processes in clinical healthcare environments. Over two dozen Worcester firefighter recruits participated in the course and City of Worcester Training Division Fire Captain Steven Oberg said the class provided up-to-date information and was relevant for his recruits.

"Much of what we do as firefighters involves direct patient care on the street. An educated firefighter is a good firefighter. Someone who can think on their feet and make decisions quickly," Captain Oberg said.

Course attendees were able to learn safe and protective ways to deal with blood borne pathogens, needle-sticks, and sharps safety, an area where recruits may lack experience.

"I would recommend this course to other first responders and healthcare workers. It is a great way to learn new information for those who haven't been trained yet and is also a great way for those who have been trained to

reinforce their training," said recruit Wesley Allain.

Recruit James Sharry agreed.

"Being a firefighter in a time like this can be challenging because of the connection to the community and interactions that are required daily. Having this knowledge can not only help the individual firefighters to remain safe, but it allows for the community as a whole to be sure that they have a full fire force that is not handicapped by many illnesses," Mr. Sharry said, adding, "Protecting ourselves and our colleagues allows us to be available at full strength in health and numbers."

QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja said it is vitally important to work together as a community during this health crisis, and the free course is just one of the ways in which the College is helping its community.

"We have redoubled our efforts in finding ways in which to assist our community," President Pedraja said.

Captain Oberg said he has passed the information learned in the course to the District 7 Fire training coordinator, who was going to share it with all district member departments.

"I do feel like the course was valuable and will help me throughout my career as a firefighter. Being a first responder we must know about the safest ways to deal with and control diseases, which is

exactly what this course teaches. I have already used some of the information that I learned during this course without being on the job yet," said recruit John Simoncini.

"If another first responder or healthcare worker has not yet taken this course, I would highly recommend they do so," recruit Nicholas Toedt added. "This information is especially important in the current climate. Knowing how to properly control the spread of infectious disease, and understanding the proper safety measures that need to be taken, can ultimately save lives."

To learn more about this course and current free courses offered, visit <https://www.QCC.edu/center-workforce-development-and-continuing-education>

For more information on QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu

Quinsigamond Community College provides the community with high quality, affordable higher education in Worcester County. As a regional leader in education and workforce development, QCC serves the diverse educational needs of Central Massachusetts by providing affordable, accessible, and high quality programming leading to transfer, career, and lifelong learning.

XTRAMART

continued from page A8

for taking it over and "stepp[ing] up to make this happen."

"Things are starting to look kind of normal," with regular customers begin-

ning to return, Joslin said of the current Covid situation.

Providing meals "has been a great experience," he added. "The company is a family and this has definitely made us stronger and pulled us together."

POSITIVELY

continued from page A8

The past benefits of our manned space efforts are often forgotten. Ranging from kidney dialysis, fetal heart monitors and programmable heart pacemakers, these are just the tip of the technological iceberg created by our efforts to reach out to the stars. Our return to space will undoubtedly not just provide celestial travel but once again bring our nation back to the forefront of technological advancement.

Unfortunately, this magnificent achievement in space has been forever scarred by one man's indifference and lack of compassion for his fellow man. A human being who callously placed his knee on the throat of another simply because he had the power and could, has

caused pain, suffering and death. If we can figure out how to catapult two men into space and return them safely, surely, we can learn to live in peace and harmony with others... at least logic tells us so. Unfortunately, this week, logic, compassion, and love for one another is out the window.

I believe in the compassion and love of our human nature. I know we cannot allow the tragic actions of the few to destroy the lives of the majority. Those of us who love must condemn and fight hate. Where there is good, there will also be evil, but we cannot give into this reality and must fight evil with love.

I'm left only this morning with prayer.

Heavenly Father,
You taught us through your words and example to love each other as we love ourselves. You com-

manded us not to murder, yet through all our advances, we seem unable to protect the vulnerable from the powerful. I pray for the family of George Floyd, that they will find peace amidst the chaos and comfort from their pain of loss. I pray for our nation and world to find healing and resolution to the hurt and anger rampaging through our communities and I pray fervently that we will finally internalize your words and love one another."

Amen
I believe we will overcome.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.



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WEBSTER LAKE - 9 Pebble Beach Rd! Middle Pond - Winter Cove! Private Peninsula Protected from the Storm - Safe Harbor! Custom 3,179' 8 Rm Contemp Ready for Your Immediate Enjoyment! Grand Entry Foyer! Ideal Open Flr Plan w/Sky Lighted Cathedral Ceilings, Tall Windows & Hrdwd Flrs! Beautiful Appliance Custom Granite Kit w/Center Isl! Formal Din, Fireplace Liv Rm w/Water/Estuary Views! 1st Flr Laundry! Second Floor Master Suite, Ideal Full Bath, Huge Walk-in Closet! 3 Bdrms Total! 2 Full & 2 Half Baths! Walk-out Lower Level Fireplace Fam Rm! Buderus Oil Heat! C/Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage! **\$779,900.00**

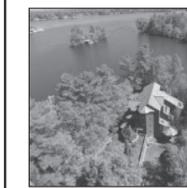
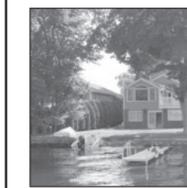


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DUDLEY - 38 Pine St! 5 Rm Ranch! Original Owner! Quaint Eat-In Kit! Formal Din Rm! Spacious Liv Rm w/New Picture Window! Fam Rm w/Views to Private Back Yard! Mudrm! Huge Deck! Buderus Oil Heat! 2 Car Garage! New Septic! Vinyl Sided! Newer Windows! Solar Panels! **\$239,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT - 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond - Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo - Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Flr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplcd! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$598,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 23 Beacon Rd! Killdeer Island - Middle Pond - Southern Exposure - Full Day Sun! Level 90' Waterfront Lot w/1,011 Square Feet! Meticulously Maintained 5+ Rm, 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Home w/Room to Expand! Soaring Cathedral Ceiling Family Rm w/Stone Fireplace Opening to the Expansive Deck! 2nd floor Lake Facing Master w/Anderson Slider to the Expansive Deck! 2nd floor Lake Facing Master w/Master Bath, Huge Closets & Slider to It's Lake Facing Deck! C/Air! 2 Car Garage! Lake Living at its Best! Listed by Another - "SOLD" by Century21 Lake Realty! **\$645,000.00**



WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$999,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower of Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 Z's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**



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LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer. **ON DEPOSIT \$70,000**

Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**

Webster - Potential 6 Buildable Lots! Water/Sewer Access, Zoned Lake Residential **\$129,400.**

Webster - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre, artesian well, Septic Design, Etc. **\$130,000**

Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. **\$99,900**

DUDLEY - 25 MARSHALL TER.

ON DEPOSIT

Custom Hip Roof Ranch! 1,480+- Sqft. One Level Living, Spacious Open Floor Plan. Combination Kitchen/Dining w/Breakfast Bar, Cooktop Range & Built-in Oven, 3 Large Bedrooms w/Large Closets, Linen Closet, 1st Floor Laundry Room, Hardwood Floors, Separate Bath Tub & Shower. Forced Hot Water Heat by Oil w/High End Cast Iron Baseboard, Recently Shingled Roof, Overlooks Attractive, Level Landscaping!
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2 BUILDABLE LOTS

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\$24,500. Each =Total \$49,000

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 28 BLACK POINT RD

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WEBSTER LAKE - 32 JACKSON RD

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL! EXTREMELY UNIQUE 3.32 ACRE WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT PROPERTY! Charming, year-round, 2 BR, 2 bath Ranch, located at the Southern most end of Webster Lake's South Pond beyond Cedar Island! Extremely private w/direct Lake access. The home offers a full finished LL w/walkout access, a screened-in 18x20 patio, 18x26 det'd garage & 8x8 storage shed. Park like grounds!
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Local historian releases timely new book

WORCESTER — In the spring of 2018, Linda Hixon, lead historian of the Hopedale Women's History Project and former instructor at Worcester State University, realized that the 100th anniversary of the influenza pandemic of 1918 was approaching. Throughout the world, the 1918 pandemic killed the most people in the least amount of time – estimates say between 5 and 10 percent of the world's population died between September and November 1918, with about 675,000 dying here in the United States.

Having spearheaded book projects on Worcester's military heroes from the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and World War I, she decided that chronicling this historic event was of paramount importance. This was born "The Grip: The 1918 Pandemic and a City Under Siege."

Shawn Driscoll, a student in the Master's program at Worcester State at the time, collaborated with Hixon. He is currently a second year Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell; his field of study is twentieth century American History with a concentration in Vietnam Conflict history. Together, they decided to include high school students

and volunteers in this project. Driscoll approached Worcester Academy and Worcester Public Schools, and almost 20 students and 10 volunteers joined the effort to remember some of the nearly 1,000 people who died in Worcester from influenza.

Altogether, about 50 profiles were written on the victims of the "Spanish Flu," all of them either residents of the city or dying within the city's limits. But that is less than ten percent of the total number of victims who died here in Worcester. Very few photos of the victims could be found, although some volunteers wrote biographies of family members who perished during the epidemic. Those photos of loved ones have been included in the book.

The book also includes chapters by local historians and academics on the city's response to the influenza epidemic. The chapters range from the effort of the local media to inform the public; the volunteer efforts of local groups to try and aid the sick, the dying, and the orphaned; the creation of an emergency hospital to take the strain off the local medical establishment; how influenza impacted the African-American population of Worcester; how local cemeteries dealt with the influx of the dead; and an account of

the Worcester County town of Milford, where the local population of poor immigrants was devastated by the disease.

Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early wrote the foreword for "The Grip: The 1918 Pandemic and a City Under Siege." Early's family lost a member to influenza – Helen Labuski, who died on December 31, 1918 at barely 18 months old. Helen was the last death in 1918 as influenza resurged in Worcester. Once the death toll began to fall the city attempted to return to "normal," but they did so too soon – hundreds more would die between mid-October when the restrictions eased, and May 24, 1919 when Bertha Mackey became Worcester's last official death from the influenza pandemic.

"A project like this, remembering the victims of a medical disaster, is important at any time in history. But I believe it is most important now because we have forgotten the lessons of the past. We have forgotten that human lives are more important than economic gain. We have forgotten to keep our neighbors safe by wearing masks and keeping our distance," Hixon said. "We have forgotten to protect the vulnerable by keeping public gatherings to a minimum. Worcester's powers-that-be took similar steps in 1918, but not without a fight and not until it was too late, and more people died than was necessary. And restrictions were ended too soon, leading to even more deaths. Worcester was not alone – this happened in most cities and towns across the country during that pandemic 100 years ago, and more people died. The fact that we have forgotten those lessons is to our shame. More will die because we have forgotten our past."

Hixon and Driscoll launched a Kickstarter to help raise money to publish "The Grip: The 1918 Pandemic and a City Under Siege." www.kickstarter.com/projects/1918grip/the-grip For more information, please contact Linda Hixon at 508-373-8315.

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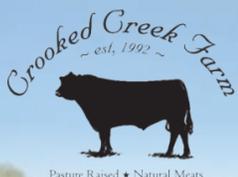
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The crews will start to prepare to pave by lowering castings and grinding the road on the Charlton Middle School access road and the connector road. Learn more about the construction work on the Traffic Updates page.

The next phase of the Charlton Waterline work – waterline activation, installation of plumbing, and private well abandonments – will require regular interactions between our neighbors and work crews.

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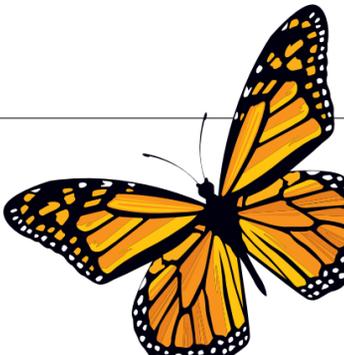
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